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WEST GERMANY: Talks will start soon on diplomatic
relations with Peking

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NOTES

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WEST GERMANY: BONN INTENDS TO DISCUSS ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PEKING IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE DECISION TO DO SO APPARENTLY WAS TAKEN

ON 9 AUGUST

THE MOVE IS ESSENTIALLY A DEFENSIVE MANEUVER TO DENY THE OPPOSITION CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS THE ADVANTAGE THEY HAVE ENJOYED ON THIS ISSUE SINCE ONE OF THEIR LEADERS VISITED PEKING LAST MONTH. FOREIGN MINISTER SCHEEL IS MORE ANXIOUS TO MOVE ON THE CHINA QUESTION THAN CHANCELLOR BRANDT. BRANDT, IN A TELEVISION INTERVIEW ON 17 AUGUST, TRIED TO ASSURE MOSCOW THAT HIS POLICY TOWARD CHINA IS NOT DIRECTED AGAINST THE SOVIETS. HE ALSO DENIED THAT THE APPROACHING ELECTIONS WILL AFFECT THE TIMING OF AN AGREEMENT. HE DID NOT RULE OUT A MEETING BETWEEN HIMSELF AND CHOU EN-LAI, BUT SAID IT WAS SCHEEL'S TURN FIRST.

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